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### Abstract

Polymer composites containing keratin and at least one polymer. Methods for producing the polymer composites are also provided. The properties of polymers are improved by the dispersion of cleaned, processed keratin material, preferably derived from poultry feathers, in the polymeric material. The keratin material can be in the form of fibers, particles, or large pieces from animal hair, nail, hoof, horn, or avian (e.g., poultry) feathers.